AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. Amendments to the claims are indicated below:

1 to 7 (Cancelled).

8. (Currently Amended) A system for treating a liquid stream in a pulp and paper mill to remove ~~undesirable~~particulate material from the liquid stream~~,~~ comprising:

a filtering device including a perforated screen element having a filtering surface, an inlet, and a filtered liquid outlet at an opposite side of the filtering surface to the inlet, wherein said filtering surface further comprises apertures with an area larger than an average size of the particulate material in the liquid stream;

said inlet connectable to a source of liquid containing ~~undesirable~~ the particulate material;

said inlet ~~connectable to a source of~~ adapted to receive liquid containing ~~at least some~~ comminuted cellulosic fibrous material ~~to the inlet~~, wherein at least a portion of the fibrous material has average fiber length greater than a dimension of the apertures in the filtering surface; and

a bed of the comminuted cellulosic fibrous material formed on the filtering surface of the screen element to provide a fine screening medium which filters out the particulate material, wherein said bed is formed of the fibrous materials flowing through the inlet in the liquid.

9. (Original) A system as recited in claim 8 wherein said screen element is a cylindrical screen element.

10. (Original) A system as recited in claim 9 wherein said screen element rotates.

11. (Original) A system as recited in claim 9 wherein said screen element is stationary.

12. (Original) A system as recited in claim 8 wherein said filtering surface is a concave or external surface.

13. (Original) A system as recited in claim 8 wherein said filtering surface is a convex or internal surface.

14. (Currently Amended) A system for treating a liquid stream in a pulp and paper mill to remove ~~undesirable~~ particulate material from the liquid stream~~,~~ comprising:

a filtering device having a perforated screen element having a perforated filtering surface, an inlet and a filtered liquid outlet on a side of the filtering surface opposite to the inlet, wherein said filtering surface further comprises apertures with an area larger than an average size of the particulate material in the liquid stream;~~,~~

a first liquid containing ~~undesirable~~ the particulate material, and a second liquid containing at least some comminuted cellulosic fibrous material, wherein at least a portion of the fibrous material has average fiber length greater than a

dimension of the apertures in the filtering surface, and wherein said first and second liquids are introduced to the inlet; and

a bed of the comminuted cellulosic fibrous material formed on the perforated filtering surface of the screen element which provides a finer screening medium than the ~~perforated~~ apertures of the filtering surface of the screen element without the bed of comminuted cellulosic fibrous material present, wherein said bed filters the particulate material, and said bed is formed of the fibrous materials from the second liquid flowing through the inlet in the liquid.

15. (Original) A system as recited in claim 14 wherein said screen element is a cylindrical screen element.

16. (Original) A system as recited in claim 14 wherein said screen element rotates.

17. (Original) A system as recited in claim 14 wherein said screen element is stationary.

18. (Original) A system as recited in claim 14 wherein said filtering surface is a concave or external surface.

19. (Original) A system as recited in claim 14 wherein said filtering surface is a convex or internal surface.